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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

JAPANESE NURSES AT HOME AND ABROAD

OUR honorary vice-president from Japan in the International Council of Nurses, Miss Take Hagiwara, has attended the congresses in London, 1909, and Cologne, 1912. Miss Hagiwara now holds the position of superintendent of the Red Cross nurses in Japan, and it is not necessary to understand her language to realize that her slight frame contains an earnest soul and a character fitted for her responsible position. She speaks most earnestly and forcefully, and through her interpreter seizes the whole significance of meetings, papers, and conversations in a wonderful way. She addressed the international meeting twice, in Japanese, once at the banquet and again at one of the regular meetings. After the Congress she went to Paris to study hospital organization there.

The British Journal of Nursing has given in full the story of the pilgrimage of the three Japanese nurses, with Miss Breay, to the burial place of Miss Nightingale, where the eastern Sisters laid a wreath upon her grave, and the last Red Cross Society Report of Japan (1911) gives a most impressive account of a memorial service held in Tokyo on Miss Nightingale's death, which we here reprint as a precious historical leaf.

"A SHINTO MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE MISS NIGHTINGALE.

"When we were informed of the death, on August 13, 1910, of Miss Florence Nightingale, who was revered and loved from afar by our nurses as the model worker of their profession, she was greatly mourned. The Central Hospital officers of our society decided to have a religious service performed for the departed according to the ancient Shinto rituals. It took place on September 27, in one of the class rooms for the student nurses, where her portrait was hung over the altar. Among these present were Viscount Hanabusa, vice-president of the society; Barons Ishiguro and Matsudaira, councillors of the hospital; Marchioness Nabeshima, president of the Ladies' Voluntary Nursing Association; Marchioness Matsukata, honorary vice-president of the association; the officers of the same and the official staff, and some 350 nurses belonging to the society.

Director Surgeon-General Hirai delivered an opening speech in which he explained the reason of this memorial service. Baron Ishiguro then made a eulogistic address on the late Miss Nightingale. The ceremony proper followed, according to the Shinto ritual. The spirit of the deceased was invoked, the offerings were made, the liturgy was read. When this was over, Superintendent Hagiwara, representing the nurses, read a paper before the spirit, when all assembled bowed with deep reverence.

"The Shinto priest concluded the ceremony by performing what is known as the ritual of the farewell to the departing spirit. The emotion with which the service was conducted by her admirers in the Far East must surely have reached her, who is now enjoying life eternal in another world. A similar memorial service for Miss Nightingale was performed at the Kyoto Branch of the Ladies' Voluntary Nursing Association, on September 3. Governor Omori, president of the Kyoto Branch, his wife, who is president of the Ladies' Association, the official staff, members, and student nurses were present."

A Nightingale medal for specially meritorious service has been instituted by Baron Ostuguro.

Another Japanese nurse at Cologne was Miss Lili Watatani, who is the superintendent of nurses in the Mitsui Charity Hospital in Tokyo. This institution was founded in 1906 by the Mitsui family at their own expense, with the double object of relieving the poor and affording medical students an opportunity for study. It is situated in one of the poorer quarters of the city and is perfectly equipped and generously endowed. The treatment of the sick and the education of the nurses are entrusted to the dean of the College of Medicine under the supervision of the president of the Tokyo Imperial University.

The report of 1912 says:

"This hospital gives most careful attention to the education of nurses. There are lecture halls and dormitories in the compound of the hospital. The applicants are admitted as probationers, and after a course of three years' theoretical and practical study, are appointed as nurses of the hospital. The first class of 30 nurses graduated from this course this April and are now working in the hospital. The second and third classes are in course of study. The total number of nurses in June, 1912, is 89, consisting of one chief nurse, 33 nurses and 55 students."

Miss Watatani speaks English quite well, and is devoted to her work. After the Congress she and Miss Yao Yamamoto, the Red Cross Sister who completed our trio, were admitted into the training school at St.

Thomas's Hospital, London, to have a couple of months' experience in administration and management. There we saw them, happy and delighted with their opportunity, Miss Watatani wearing her white superintendent's dress and cap and Miss Yamamoto wearing the St. Thomas uniform. The three Japanese were all eager to read "A History of Nursing" and secured copies both in English and German. It gave one of the collaborating authors a curious feeling to hear them speak of it in the precincts of St. Thomas's, where no copy of it is to be found! We gave Miss Hagiwara a copy of Miss Linda Richards's *Reminiscences*, which she had not yet seen.

The three Japanese Sisters made friends of all, and were one of the special attractions of the Congress. Their exquisite courtesy, keen attention to the proceedings, and true nursing spirit were charming to every member present.

ITEMS

THE Chinese Government is engaged in perfecting the organization of a Red Cross Society.

MISS PAI SOULON, a young Chinese lady who is taking college and nursing courses in the United States, spends her holidays and often a week-end, at the Nurses' Settlement in New York.

THE Norwegian nurses have formed a National Council as the result of the congresses of London and Cologne. Miss Bergljot Larsson, president of the newly founded society, writes to Mrs. Fenwick, founder of the International, that on September 24 delegates came from all parts of Norway to Christiania, and the Norwegian Nurses' Society was brought into existence in one meeting. We extend our congratulations and good wishes, and an invitation to join the International in 1915.

WHITE SLAVERY AND LEGISLATION

A SINISTER demonstration of the insincerity of male lawmakers in questions relating to the social evil has been given to the world in the slow steps of a White Slave Act through the House of Commons. For years such an act has been blocked by the "objections" of members, as is possible with a private members' bill; now when, at last, public sentiment has risen higher and a white slave bill has been introduced, it has been, in committee, amended by taking out the words "White Slave Traffic" as too sensational, and making the title "The Criminal Law Amendment Bill," and also by a provision that traffickers in women may

only be arrested by a special constable, and not by an ordinary policeman. This clause obviously makes the bill absolutely worthless, as the panders can always easily escape a special officer, who will never, of course, be on the spot when needed. It remains, of course, to be seen whether this infamous amendment is to be approved and passed by Parliament. Meantime an uneasy antisuffrage member of the House of Commons points out that such exhibitions justify women in demanding the vote on the ground that men do not protect women. Also from India come uneasy rumors of governmental anxiety about white slavery there,—not at all from moral scruples, but because it destroys native respect for British rule! That conditions are terrible enough is shown by efforts being made by missions to found rescue homes, and by the following letter from Dr. Agnes McLaren, quoted in *The Shield* of July, 1912:

She writes: "I was appalled to find to what an extent the white slave traffic exists in India. Besides the Indian women from the hills, I came across some French and English women; but the majority of these poor women are Austrians, Italians, Jewesses and Greeks. Large numbers are shipped to Bombay and other Indian ports and sent over the country. Those who have been entrapped and wish to escape are in a peculiarly helpless condition, as they can neither speak English nor any Indian language and possess no money. One police inspector told me his men come across women who could be rescued if there were a refuge to which to take them, and several missionaries have endorsed this opinion."

"The importation of a white woman into India," says the Hon. Mr. W. C. Madge, "aims a more deadly blow at British prestige than any amount of sedition."

In England, Mrs. Fenwick's story "Little Cuckoo Flower" has made a deep impression, and this winter she will give readings of it for the benefit of the cause. A "Penitentiary Worker" writes to the *British Journal of Nursing* that there are plenty of white child slaves in the large cities, and hundreds of little prostitutes of ten years old and upwards. There are very few "fallen women," she adds; most of them "fell" as quite young children. Sentences from the Bench for rape are little more than a reprimand. Thirty shillings (six dollars) was the sentence of a man of fifty for assaulting a little girl of five.

These hideous conditions underlie the English militancy, and it is time that all persons understood this truth.